

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:**

This is a continuation of Application No. 09/863,458 filed May 24, 2001; the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

**Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure.**

A plurality of shock-absorbing ribs ~~(19)~~ for protecting batteries are formed on an outer surface of the cover ~~(18)~~. The plurality of ribs ~~(19)~~ are arranged parallel to each other. The plurality of ribs ~~(19)~~ may be crossed in a lattice-like manner. Shock-absorbing projections ~~(20)~~ each for abutting against a fixing member ~~(11)~~, engaged with the battery electrode ~~(10)~~, are formed on an inner surface of the cover ~~(18)~~. The projection ~~(20)~~ has an annular shape, and a distal end portion of the electrode ~~(10)~~ is received in the projection. A gap between the projection ~~(20)~~ and the fixing member ~~(11)~~ is smaller than a gap between the electrode ~~(10)~~ and the cover ~~(18)~~. The plurality of ribs ~~(19)~~ and the projections ~~(20)~~ are disposed substantially symmetrically. The plurality of ribs ~~(19)~~ are interconnected by bulge portions ~~(21)~~.